

[0110] CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions which, when executed on one or more processors of a digital transmitter device, direct the digital transmitter device to perform steps of a method at the digital transmitter device, wherein the steps comprise:
 - optically scanning a substrate to form a digital image;
 - performing optical character recognition on the digital image to form a document having a word processing format, wherein the document includes text that is adjacent to predetermined indicia;
 - receiving a text input;
 - substituting the text input for the predetermined indicia in the document such that both the text input and the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia have substantially the same font; and
 - outputting a rendering of the document.
2. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the steps further comprise automatically shaping said text input in accordance with a shape of said text that is adjacent to predetermined indicia.
3. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the steps further comprise repositioning, reformatting, reshaping or resizing elements of said text

that is adjacent to predetermined indicia in accordance with a predetermined position of the text input and a size of the text input.

4. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the steps further comprise repositioning, reformatting, reshaping or resizing elements of the text input in accordance with a predetermined position of the text that is adjacent to predetermined indicia and a size of the text that is adjacent to predetermined indicia.
5. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the receiving a text input further comprises receiving the text input at a user interface.
6. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 5, wherein the receiving a text input further comprises outputting a prompt for the text input at the user interface.
7. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 6, wherein the outputting a prompt for the text input at the user interface further comprises determining the prompt for the text input by performing a lookup function using the predetermined indicia.

8. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined indicia is in the substrate and exhibit a predetermined range of reflectance values that are used to determine the location of the predetermined indicia in the document.
9. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 8 , wherein the predetermined range of reflectance values is detectable in the substrate when the substrate is illuminated by light having a predetermined range of wavelengths.
10. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined indicia is in the substrate and includes a bar code used to determine the location of the predetermined indicia in the document.
11. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the receiving a text input at a user interface further comprises:
 - optically scanning a second substrate to form a second digital image;
 - performing optical character recognition on the second digital image to form the text input.
12. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 11, wherein the optically scanning a second substrate to form a second digital image further comprises outputting a prompt for the text input at a user interface.
13. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 12 , wherein the outputting a prompt for the text input at the user interface further comprises determining the

prompt for the text input by performing a lookup function with the predetermined indicia.

14. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the substituting further comprising:

determining the font of at least one of the text input and the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia; and

changing the font of either the text input or the text in the document that is adjacent to the predetermined indicia to be that of the determined font.

15. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the substituting further comprising changing the font of both the text input and the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia to be substantially the same font.

16. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the substituting further comprising esthetically arranging the text input in-line with the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia.

17. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, further comprising receiving a font selection at the user interface, wherein the substituting further comprising substantially matching the font of the text input and the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia to that of the font selection.

18. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 17, wherein the receiving a font selection at the user interface further comprises:
- determining the font of the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia;
 - outputting a display at the user interface that:
 - identifies the font of the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia; and
 - prompts for the font selection.
19. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the substrate includes the predetermined indicia.
20. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the output of the rendering of the document is selected from the group consisting of a print out, a facsimile transmission, and an e-mail message.
21. The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 1, wherein the substantially the same font comprises one or more textual characteristics that are selected from the group consisting of case, line spacing, text color, background color, foreground color, character spacing, text effects, alignment, shadowing, and shading.
22. A method of producing a document with a digital transmitter device, wherein the document includes a form template that incorporates a scanned image into a predefined insertion field, the form template or parameters of said form template being stored in or accessible to said digital transmitter device, the form template

having a word processing format and including text that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field, the method comprising:

scanning an image for inclusion in said form template to form a digital image;

performing optical character recognition on the digital image to form a text input;

substituting the text input in the form template for the predefined insertion field such that both the text input and the text that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field have substantially the same font; and

outputting a rendering of the document.

23. The method as defined in Claim 22, further comprising automatically shaping the text input in accordance with a shape of the text that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field.

24. The method as defined in Claim 22, further comprising repositioning, reformatting, reshaping or resizing elements of the text that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field in accordance with a predetermined position of the text input and a size of the text input.

25. The method as defined in Claim 22, further comprising repositioning, reformatting, reshaping or resizing elements of the text input in accordance with a predetermined position of the text that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field and a size of the text that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field.

26. The method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the substituting further comprising esthetically arranging the text input in-line with the text that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field.
27. The method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the predefined insertion field includes a bar code used to determine the location of the predefined insertion field in the form template.
28. The method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the substituting further comprising:
determining the font of at least one of the text input and the text adjacent to the predefined insertion field; and
changing the font of either the text input or the text in the document that is adjacent to the predefined insertion field to be that of the determined font.
29. The method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the substituting further comprising changing the font of both the text input and the text adjacent to the predefined insertion field to be substantially the same font.
30. The method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the outputting a rendering of the document is selected from the group consisting of a print out, a facsimile transmission, and an e-mail message.
31. The method as defined in Claim 22, wherein the substantially the same font comprises one or more textual characteristics that are selected from the group

consisting of case, line spacing, text color, background color, foreground color, character spacing, text effects, alignment, shadowing, and shading.

32. The method as defined in Claim 22, further comprising receiving a font selection at a user interface, wherein the substituting further comprising substantially matching the font of the text input and the text adjacent to the predefined insertion field to that of the font selection.

33. The method as defined in Claim 32, wherein the receiving a font selection at the user interface further comprises:

determining the font of the text adjacent to the predefined insertion field;

outputting a display at the user interface that:

identifies the font of the text adjacent to the predefined
insertion field; and

prompts for the font selection.

34. The method as defined in Claim 22, further comprising outputting a prompt for the text input.

35. The method as defined in Claim 35 , wherein the outputting a prompt further comprises determining the prompt for the text input by performing a lookup function using the predefined insertion field.

36. A digital transmitter device comprising:

means for optically scanning a substrate to form a digital image;

means for performing optical character recognition on the digital image to form a document having a word processing format, wherein the document includes text that is adjacent to predetermined indicia;

means for receiving a text input;

means for substituting the text input for the predetermined indicia in the document such that both the text input and the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia have substantially the same font; and

means for outputting a rendering of the document.

37. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 36, further comprising means for locating a portion of the digital image corresponding to the predetermined indicia, wherein the portion exhibits a predetermined range of reflectance values.

38. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 37, wherein:

the predetermined range of reflectance values is detectable at the portion when the portion is illuminated by light having a predetermined range of wavelengths; and

the digital transmitter device further comprises means for illuminating the substrate with light having the predetermined range of wavelengths.

39. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 36, further comprising means for locating a portion of the digital image corresponding to the predetermined indicia, wherein the portion includes a bar code.
40. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 39, wherein the bar code is used to determine the location of the predetermined indicia in the document.
41. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 36, wherein the means for outputting further comprises means for forming a network message to be transmitted, wherein the network message includes the digital image and is addressed to an electronic address including an address of a network resource and a destination location thereat.
42. A digital transmitter device for producing a document based on a form template that incorporates a scanned image and that has a word processing format, the digital transmitter device comprising:
- a processor;
 - an optical scanner controlled by said processor; and
 - a memory unit accessible to said processor in which a program and the form template or parameters of said form template are stored, said form template including text that is adjacent to a predetermined insertion field;
- wherein said processor executes the program to:
- control the scanner to scan an image to form a digital image;
 - performing optical character recognition on the digital image to form a text string having a word processing format;

substituting the text string for the predetermined insertion field such that both the text string and the text adjacent to the predetermined insertion field have substantially the same font; and
output a rendering of the document.

43. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 42, wherein the output rendering of the document comprises a network message to be transmitted, wherein the network message includes the digital image and is addressed to an electronic address including an address of a network resource and a destination location thereat.

44. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 42, wherein the substituting further comprises:

determining the font of at least one of the text string and the text adjacent to the predetermined insertion field; and

changing the font of either the text string or the text adjacent to the predetermined insertion field to be that of the determined font.

45. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 42, wherein the substituting further comprises changing the font of both the text string and the text adjacent to the predetermined insertion field to be substantially the same font.
46. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 42, wherein the substituting further comprises esthetically arranging the text input in-line with the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia.
47. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 42, wherein the processor further executes the program to receive a font selection at a user interface, wherein the substituting further comprises substantially matching the font of the text string and the text adjacent to the predetermined insertion field to that of the font selection.
48. The digital transmitter device medium as defined in Claim 47, wherein the receiving of the font selection at the user interface further comprises:
- determining the font of the text adjacent to the predetermined insertion field; and
 - outputting a display at the user interface that:
 - identifies the font of the text adjacent to the predetermined insertion field; and
 - includes a prompt for the font selection.
49. A digital transmitter device comprising:
- one or more processors;

an optical scanner controlled by said one or more processors; and
a memory unit accessible to said one or more processors in which a program is stored, wherein the one or more processors execute the program to:

control the optical scanner to optically scanning a substrate to form a digital image;

perform optical character recognition on the digital image to form a document having a word processing format;

detect in the document:

predetermined indicia; and

text with a font that is adjacent to adjacent to the predetermined indicia;

receive a text input having a font at a user interface;

substitute the text input for the predetermined indicia in the document such that both the text input and the text adjacent to the predetermined indicia have substantially the same font; and

output a rendering of the document.

50. The digital transmitter device as defined in Claim 49, wherein the one or more processors further execute the program to automatically shape said text input in accordance with a shape of said text that is adjacent to predetermined indicia.